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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 IO-13 SSO-00 /041 W
----------005939 271123Z /11
O 271057Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4739

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 05994

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP, UNGA, SP
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA

REF: STATE 133610

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS CONFIRMED ACCEPTANCE OF THE TIME AND PLACE AS REPORTED REFTEL. OUR COMMENTS REGARDING TOPICS OREJA MAY RAISE FOLLOW.

2. AFRICA AND THE CANARY ISLANDS. THE GOS IS MAKING A TREMENDOUS EFFORT TO CONVINCE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS NOT TO PRESS THE ISSUE OF OAU SUPPORT FOR THE ALGERIA-BACKED CANARY ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE GROUP AT THE OAU JULY SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM, AND ASKED US TO PUT IN A WORD WITH OUR BETTER AFRICAN FRIENDS (MADRID 4704). WHILE NOTING OUR INABILITY TO DO ANYTHING IN THE OAU FORUM ITSELF, WE HAVE TOLD THE GOS THAT WE WILL INSTRUCT OUR EMBASSIES IN KEY AFRICAN COUNTRIES IF CONVENIENT OCCASIONS AROSE TO CONVEY TO HOST GOVERNMENTS OUR HOPE THAT THE CANARIES ISSUE WOULD NOT BE RAISED IN KHARTOUM (MADRID 5640 AND STATE 122855). GIVEN THE HIGH LEVEL OF SPANISH INTEREST IN THE ISSUE, OREJA MAY TREAT THE MATTER FURTHER. OUR ROSITION ON THE CANARIES IS THAT THEY ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF SPAIN.

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3. U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL MEETING. THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 30 IN NEW YORK. THERE WAS A MEETING AT THE LEVEL OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (SPANISH UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AMBASSADOR STABLER) ON APRIL 10. OREJA HAD HOPED TO HOLD A COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN MADRID DURING THE SPRING, AND AT ONE POINT

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SET ASIDE DATES IN MID-JUNE ON HIS CALENDAR, WHEN IT WAS THOUGHT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY'S VISITING MADRID THEN. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT A DECISION ON WHEN BEFORE THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS A MEETING CAN BE HELD DEPENDS ON A DECISION ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT TO SPAIN BY TH PRESIDENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. ONE ANCILLARY EFFECT OF POSTPONING THE SPRING MEETING MAY BE TO ALTER THE FALL SCHEDULE FROM LATE SEPT/EARLY OCT., AS IN THE PAST, TO SOMETHING CLOSER TO THE TIME OF THE DECEMBER NATO MINISTERIAL.

4. POSSIBLE VISIT OF GUTIERREZ MELLADO--TREATY IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES. FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME NOW, SPANISH FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO HAS WANTED, AS SOON AS HE COULD AFFORD THE TIME, TO PLAY A MORE DIRECT ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. EVEN WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY, HE MADE NO SECRET OF THE DOUBTS HE HARBORS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP: THE ABSENCE IN HIS MIND OF GENUINE PARTNERSHIP, THE INSUFFICIENCY OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND NOW THE CONFLICT BETWEEN U.S. ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AND SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE TREATY RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

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THESE VIEWS ARE NOW BEING ECHOED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOS (KING AND PRIME MINISTER), WHO FACE THE PROBLEMS OF A DEPRESSED DOMESTIC ARMS INDUSTRY AND DIFFICULTIES IN FINANCING THE MUCH-NEEDED MODERNIZATION OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THE LATTER, OF COURSE, IMPACTS HEAVILY ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL REFORM, RENEWED CONCERNS FOR THE SECURITY OF THE CANARIES, AND A POSSIBLY MORE RAPID TIMETABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF NATO MEMBERSHIP.

NO SPECIFIC DATES FOR SUCH A VISIT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD YET BY THE GOS; AN INVITATION FROM SECRETARY BROWN FOR AN EARLY VISIT WOULD BE EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED.
5. THE NATO SUMMIT--AND NATO. WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO BRIEF THE SPANISH ON THE SUMMIT THROUGH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION WITH NATO, AN INSTRUMENT OF THE U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL. SPECIFICS HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT. OREJA WILL OF COURSE BE GREATLY INTERESTED IN THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENT.

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S TIMETABLE ON NATO REMAINS UNCERTAIN, WITH THE INTENT TO CALL A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

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IN THE FALL (LEADING TO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ALLIES NEXT YEAR) VERY MUCH DEPENDENT ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMING MONTHS. SUAREZ HAS MADE CLEAR SUCH DECISIONS ARE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS IN PLACE, NOW ANTICIPATED IN OCTOBER. THEN THE ISSUE MAY BE WHETHER THE EXPECTED SOCIALIST OPPOSITION CAN BE TEMPERED ENOUGH FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP NOT TO BECOME AN ISSUE WORKING TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE GOVERNING PARTY DURING ENSUING MUNICIPAL AND PERHAPS

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 IO-13 /041 W
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O 271057Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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GENERAL ELECTIONS.

THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO ASK OREJA HOW, FROM THE PRESENT PERSPECTIVE, HE SEES THIS DEVELOPING.

6. COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ARE PRESENTLY BEING COLLECTED ON THE FOLLOWING SPANISH EXPORTS:

NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR
(SPAIN'S LARGEST EXPORT TO THE U.S.) 3 PERCENT

BOTTLED OLIVES 2.9 PERCENT

VITAMIN K 10.5 PERCENT

ZINC 4 PERCENT

IRON CHAIN 12.5 PERCENT

TREASURY IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SPAIN DURING THE JANUARY 1978 JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING TO SEE IF THESE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES MIGHT BE REDUCED. OREJA MIGHT RAISE THE SUBJECT AND ASK WHEN OUR ANSWER WILL BE FORTHCOMING. THE DECISION

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IS LONG OVERDUE AND WE EXPECT IT SOON.

7. ENERGY (NUCLEAR COOPERATION): WE INITIATED RENEGOTIA-
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TION OF OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR ENERGY ON MARCH 3-4, 1978, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 1978. OREJA MAY RAISE WITH THE SECRETARY THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE SPANISH PERCEIVE IN THE DRAFT MODEL AGREEMENT. THESE ARE LARGELY RELATED TO THE SPANISH VIEW THAT REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL AND OTHER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES ARE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THEIR FUTURE ENERGY SYSTEM. THEY APPEAR UNWILLING TO AGREE TO A U.S. VETO OVER SPANISH ACCESS TO AND USE OF THESE TECHNOLOGIES. THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE ACT PROVIDES FOR INCREASED U.S. ENRICHMENT CAPACITY AND OTHER MEASURES TO INSURE THE U.S. AS A RELIABLE NUCLEAR SUPPLIER. NOW THAT THE NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN (1978-87) HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, WE HOPE TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH SPAIN TO INSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF ENERGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH. EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID05994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780224-1009
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780511/aaaaaiyj.tel
Line Count: 196
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 726f3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 133610
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2537485
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY\'S BILATERAL WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA
TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, SP, US, UNGA, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (OREJA AGUIRRE, MARCELINO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/726f3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014